

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SAN JO 01752 011509Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 011340Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 070

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1752

STADIS////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CS

SUBJECT: ALLEGED UNITED BRANDS BRIBE ATTEMPT IN COSTA RICA

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ME APRIL 29 ON SUBJECT OF BANANAS, PRESIDENT ODUBER SAID THAT THEREE MONTHS AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE FORMER PRESIDENT FIGUERES TOLD HIM THAT UNITED BRANDS OFFICIALS WERE PREPARED TO MAKE SIZEABLE CONTRIBUTION WHICH COULD BE USED FOR POLITICAL PARTY OR OTHER PURPOSES IF ODUBER INTERESTED. FIGUERES EXPLAINED THAT UNITED BRANDS HAD FUNDS WHICH WERE USED FOR PAYING GOVERNMENT OR POLITICAL OFFICIALS AND OTHER PERSONALITIES TO BUY FAVORS.

2. ODUBER SAID RATHER THAN MORALIZING ON ISSUE, HE SAID ONLY THAT TO ACCEPT ANY MONEY WOULD BE EXTREMELY RISKY SINCE THERE WAS NO TELLING WHEN OR HOW WORD OF THE DEAL WOULD GET OUT WITH PREDICTABLY DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL INVOLVED. THIS WAS END OF MATTER AS FAR AS COSTA RICA WAS CONCERNED. ODUBER SAID, HOWEVER, IN CIRCUMSTANCES HE WAS NOT SURPRISED WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT UNITED BRANDS PAY-OFF TO HONDURAN OFFICIAL.
TODMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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